

Rhododendron (Ponticum)

Scotland's most threatening invasive non-native shrub. The plant now covers over 50000 hectares of Scottish countryside. In the last 10 years the Forestry Commission and its partners the John Muir Trust and the National Trust for Scotland have spent over 15 million pounds trying to eradicate the species, to no avail.



- **Introduced to the UK by the Victorians in the early 1700s, initially as an ornamental plant, then allowed to thrive uncontrolled in what was being called 'Woodland Gardens' a new trend at the time.**
- **Landowners in Scotland favoured it initially as good cover for game birds. *(Little did they know, how bad an idea that would turn out to be)***
- **The plant thrives in a warm wet climate, which is why it is so out of control in the Scottish West Coast.**
- **Useful Links:**
 - <https://forestryandland.gov.scot/what-we-do/biodiversity-and-conservation/habitat-conservation/woodland/rhododendron>**
 - <https://beyondthebloominheather.wordpress.com/2014/05/21/the-rhododendron-the-legacy-of-victorian-social-status/>**